



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
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March 14, 2001

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members  
FROM: Doreen Garcia, Senior Health Policy Advisor  
RE: CR-101 – Proposed Intention to Modify Regulatory Standards for Prenatal Tests

**Background and Summary:**

The Washington State Board of Health has statutory authority in RCW 48.21.244, RCW 48.44.344, and RCW 48.46.375 to set standards for benefits for prenatal diagnosis of congenital disorders. Insurers, health care service contractors, and health maintenance organizations that provide benefits for pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions must follow these standards for prenatal diagnosis of congenital disorders of the fetus by means of screening and diagnostic procedures during pregnancy, if determined to be medically necessary.

These standards are set in WAC 246-680. The standards are for determining medical necessity of the procedures on a case-by-case basis. The Department of Health determines the appropriate laboratory tests and procedures. Health care providers that provide prenatal care are required to inform the pregnant woman about available tests and to submit information on prenatal tests to both the pregnant woman and the Department of Health.

According to the Administrative Procedures Act, this rule must be reviewed by December 31, 2001. The Board needs to file a CR-101 to initiate review of this rule to determine if any of the standards should be changed.

**Recommended Board Action:**

The Board may wish to consider, amend, and approve the following statement:

***The Washington State Board of Health directs the Executive Director to file a CR-101 announcing the Board's intention to review WAC 246-680 to determine any necessary changes in standards for prenatal procedures used to identify heritable and genetic disorders prior to birth.***